

STATE OF NEW YORK
LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY
BUFFALO, N.Y., JANUARY 19TH, 2023 A.D.

Honoring John Kelkenberg Sr. for His Heroic Efforts During the Buffalo Blizzard

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT *at a regular session of the Legislature of Erie County held in the Old County Hall, in the City of Buffalo, on the 19th day of January 2023 A.D., a resolution was adopted, of which the following is a true copy:*

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature is pleased to honor individuals and institutions in our community who enhance the quality of life for their family, friends, and neighbors through their conscientious and selfless service; and

WHEREAS, a deadly winter storm unleashed a fierce blizzard that swept through Erie County over Christmas weekend, burying the City of Buffalo and surrounding suburbs in over 52 inches of snow, leaving roadways impassable, stranding people in cars and away from their homes, forcing hundreds of vehicles to be abandoned on roads and highways, and tragically resulting in the loss of more than 40 lives; and

WHEREAS, when the dangerous storm conditions made it impossible for emergency vehicles to respond and caused as much as two-thirds of the snow-clearing equipment to be unavailable for service at the height of the storm, **John Kelkenberg Sr.** sprang into action; and

WHEREAS, in the face of howling snow, tropical storm force winds, and freezing temperatures, **John Kelkenberg Sr.** kept Heise Road open using his farm tractor with a snowblower attachment and, at the request of the Clarence Highway Department manned an industrial-sized loader with a 10-yard bucket to clear out the Harris hill area stopping only for fuel; and

WHEREAS, in despite the severe challenges and extreme conditions presented by this deadly blizzard, **John Kelkenberg Sr.** placed himself in harm's way, braved whiteout conditions and subzero windchills, and performed heroically to come to the aid of Clarence residents who were in great danger during the storm,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature pauses in its deliberations to honor and express their endless gratitude to **John Kelkenberg Sr.**, who risked his life to an extraordinary degree saving or attempting to save the lives of others in this once in a generational storm.

HON. CHRISTOPHER D. GREENE
Erie County Legislator – 6th District